



BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARLIN HORST

Welcome to another edition of the Baptiste Lake Association Newsletter. As I write this, we are having our first days above zero in several weeks. Hopefully as you are reading this the ice is gone and there are leaves on the trees.

We are looking forward to an exciting season of activities, and hope that each and every one of you will participate in some or all of the activities. Please keep an eye on the website for updates on activities.

The first event planned for this season is the Spring Opening event. This year the event will be a pre-dinner event, held from 4:30 to 6:30 at Birch Cliff Lodge on May 17. There will be wine and beer and appetizers. Please join us to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. New residents of the Lake are particularly invited. Come and get to know your new neighbours.

We will also be holding our Closing Event on the Labour Day weekend at Camp Ponacka. Further details will become available throughout the summer. Please plan to attend this event which is traditionally one of the largest events of the season. We are also planning a few smaller events throughout the summer. Again, please refer to the website for more information.

In addition to social activities, the BLA continues to work towards implementing the Lake Plan. David Hawkes has been tireless in organizing this as Lake Plan Implementation Coordinator. The Lake Plan is a living document, and we must continue to build on and implement its recommendations to ensure that the objectives of the residents, both permanent and seasonal, as set out in the Lake Plan, are achieved. This can only be achieved by volunteers and if David calls upon you I would hope that you would answer the call and do your part to help with Lake Plan implementation. If you would like to help, in no matter how small a way, I would encourage you to contact David and let him know that you are willing to volunteer. The more people who volunteer; the easier it will be for all.

Since the last newsletter the municipal elections were held and the Mayor and new council are in place. We continue to work with the municipality and other lake associations in the area to protect the lakes in Hastings Highlands.

Many people question what the value of a membership in the BLA will bring. Apart from

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the work your association does to protect the environment around Baptiste Lake for us and following generations, there a number of other advantages as well. One I would like to highlight for you is a new product available. Through our membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) there is a new group insurance product available which can cover your home, cottage, automobiles, boats, ATV's, snowmobiles and whatever else it is you may need to insure. Special rates are available through Cottage First Insurance. More details can be obtained at www.cottagefirst.com but in order to obtain the potential benefits of this insurance you must be a member of the BLA. Depending on your circumstances the \$25 per year to join the BLA may be far less than the savings on insurance you can obtain.

The BLA is a member of FOCA. In addition to the insurance referred to above FOCA can be a resource for the association and individual lakefront residents. I encourage you to go to the FOCA website (www.foca.on.ca) and see what they have to offer. You can also sign up to receive by e-mail the monthly newsletter which FOCA publishes. This informative newsletter provides lots of topical information for anyone who cherishes their lakefront property. Also on the FOCA website is a pamphlet called the Year in Review. This pamphlet provides more detailed information on what FOCA has done over the last year and is very informative.

The Canadian Safe Boating Counsel has published a great little pamphlet on Boating called Boat Notes. It is available for downloading on the CSBC website (www.csbc.ca). As we move into a new boating season it is worthwhile to take a few minutes and remind ourselves of the basic rules for the safe operation of a boat. Please boat responsibly so that all can enjoy our beautiful lake.



Please visit our website regularly to see what is happening around the lake. In addition, if you have not provided us with your e-mail address please do so as this is one of the most effective ways to communicate in the modern world. Please be assured that we use e-mail addresses only for the purposes of the BLA and we do not inundate you with messages. Please send your e-mail to membership@baptistelake.org along with your cottage address. Finally if you are not a member I would encourage you to become a member. The cost is minimal (\$25 per year or 3 years for \$60) and the benefits are so much more.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the board. This is your association.

An advertisement for Bancroft Sport & Marine. The main headline is "Family Fun in the Outdoors". Below this, there are four photos: a SunChaser inflatable boat, a Starcraft Marine boat, a Sea-Doo watercraft, and a Ski-Doo snowmobile. At the bottom, there is a logo for Bancroft Sport & Marine with the phone number 613-332-1830, the address 206 Hastings St. N, Bancroft, Ontario, and the website www.bancroftsportandmarine.ca.

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BAPTISTE LAKE IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2014

By David Hawkes

The Baptiste Lake Plan Implementation Committee was launched at the August 2010 BLA Annual general Meeting, during which the final recommendations of the Lake Plan were approved. At the BLA Board meeting held the following month, it was decided to use the fall and winter of 2010-11 to prepare and organize an implementation committee of lake residents – both permanent and seasonal – to begin implementing the recommendations of the Baptiste Lake Plan. The Lake Plan is organized into five sections: lake; shoreline; watershed; built environment; and, community.

Implementation activities began in the spring and summer of 2011, and the Lake Plan was launched over a three-year period, which ended this year. A workshop on implementing the Lake Plan was held with the mayor and council members from Hastings Highlands Municipality on June 29, 2011. Its theme was: “Working Together for Mutual Benefit.” In addition, a survey of lake residents was completed on potential actions to implement the Lake Plan in 2013. A workshop involving the Hastings Highlands Municipal Council and lake association members throughout Hastings Highlands took place on June 21, 2014, to address additional issues arising from the Lake Plan and from other lake associations in the municipality. This led to the Municipality of Hastings Highlands to create a Shoreline Protection and Preservation Committee, which held its inaugural meeting in October 2014. The committee includes representatives from all Hastings Highlands lakes.

The committee is exploring ways to strengthen municipal by-laws relating to the shoreline, such as the existing requirement for a vegetative buffer to reduce runoff and filter pollutants. An educational brochure is now included with correspondence from the municipality to residents, and lake associations also promote natural shorelines. Other measures, such as fines on guilty owners and contractors,



and forced restoration of degraded shorelines, will be under consideration.

Last summer, as part of implementing the Baptiste Lake Plan, a BLA Wildlife Network was formed. The idea is to bring together those volunteers who are undertaking various projects related to wildlife – loon watch (Delmond Belcastro delmond.belcastro@gmail.com), turtle and frog monitoring (Susan Hackett crazysuehackett@yahoo.ca, Max and Kathy Vandervoet max.vandervoet@sympatico.ca, Chris Chattwal chrischattwal@hotmail.com), rare species and species-at-risk (Jan Wenckstern jwenck@rogers.com) and invasive species.

If you spot turtles or their nesting sites, or identify frogs or loons and their babies, please report what you see to any of the persons above, or you can decide to become members of the BLA Wildlife Network yourself. This is especially important for rare species, species-at-risk, and invasive species. Keep posted to the BLA website for more information.

A real estate advertisement for Jill Price, Broker. It features the REMAX logo at the top left, with the text "Realty Enterprises Inc., Brokerage" and "Independently Owned and Operated" below it. To the right of the logo are two hot air balloons. Below the logo is the text "Living & Working on Baptiste Lake". In the center, the name "Jill Price" is written in a large, stylized font, with "Broker" underneath. To the right of the name are social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Below the name is the phone number "705.743.9111" and the fax number "fax: 705.743.1034". Below the phone number are three more phone numbers: "bancroft cell: 613.334.9690", "peterborough cell: 705.933.9690", and "toll free: 1.800.567.4546". Below these numbers is the email address "gettherightprice@yahoo.ca" and the website "www.jillprice.ca". To the right of the text is a QR code. On the far right is a portrait of Jill Price, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark jacket over a patterned top. At the bottom right of the advertisement is the slogan "Get the Right Price!"

GREETINGS FROM HASTINGS HIGHLANDS

By Vivian Bloom

These past several months have been both eventful and productive. With an election, and the new council format, we have had some changes. A resolution was passed to eliminate the position of deputy mayor, and your new council is as follows;



highest commitment to municipal excellence through the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario. She is a welcome addition, working with staff and council, moving the

municipality forward in a positive, proactive, and responsible manner.

Interviews have been conducted for the position of “Bylaw Enforcement Officer”, and the hiring committee will bring a recommendation to council March 4th 2015, for their approval. This is a part-time position on an “as needed basis”, utilized only when the service is required. An ad has been placed for an Operations Supervisor, and we hope to soon begin the hiring process.

Partnerships were developed at the first meeting of the newly formed “Lakes Associations”, council, staff and the public, this past June. Many viable ideas were brought forward, forming the basis for future opportunities. Much consultation has been involved, in the preparation of an updated definition, of a “vegetative buffer”. A motion for “staff to bring back a report on the cost and effectiveness of the inspection of old septic systems and ineffective or non-existent beds, on our water systems”, was also passed. As a municipality, we are concerned about the impacts of our lakes, and realize that they are a

...Continued page 6

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BRIAN ROBERTSON,

38 YEAR-OLD SUMMER RESIDENT OF BAPTISTE LAKE

Brian Robertson was a 38 year old resident of Baptiste Lake. From his birth in 1973 he spent every summer at his family's cottage on the lake. He learned to water ski at an early age and as the years went by, he could be seen almost every day skiing up and down the lake. In his teen years he took to barefoot water skiing and was up very early each calm morning and could be seen bare-footing from Sunrise Lodge to almost the Marina and back. Later in that same bay he set up a water ski course and along with several others would be out each morning at 8:00 a.m.

He became a world-class water-skier and at the age of sixteen was named the Canadian National Barefoot Waterskiing Champion.

The cottage provided a place of peace, contentment, and kept him closely connected with his extended family. His family was always a high priority. Being a big brother to Julie was a role Brian acted upon with great pride. He was extremely influential and a source of guidance and foundation for his sister throughout her life. His parents provided a source of great stability and unconditional love which he later conveyed to his children.

He developed a rocket project at age seventeen and won the Canadian National Science Fair, then advanced to the World Science Fair in London. As an adult, he became an avid pilot who held his instrument and commercial licenses and frequently flew himself, family and friends across the United States and internationally. Mr. Robertson had an uncanny drive to accomplish

more in each day than most people could in a week, yet he focused on the people around him or the activity at hand. Family, friends and colleagues throughout the world will remember his contagious enthusiasm.

Friends remember when Robertson twice shortened international business trips to attend camping weekends with his girls. Once, he interrupted a board meeting to fly home and attend his son's school play.

Brian Robertson built several companies from early stage development. In 1996, he co-founded PlanetAll (the first social networking website), where he served as Chief Technical Officer until Amazon.com acquired the web-

based services start-up in 1998.

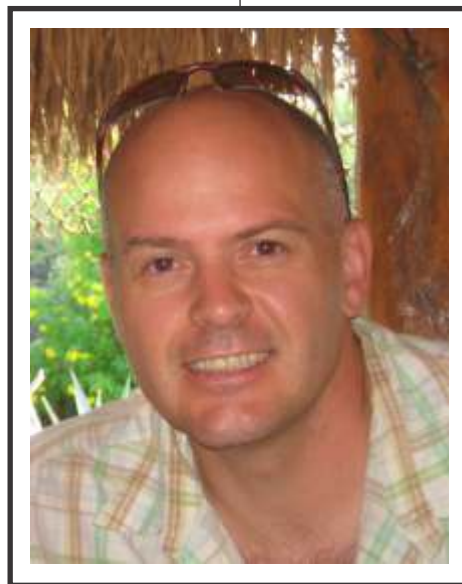
He was instrumental as a group program manager at Amazon.com, where he also launched the company's toy business.

In 1999, Robertson co-founded Visible Markets, an electronic trading platform for mortgage- and asset-backed securities, where he was CEO until the platform was acquired by Thomson Financial in 2001.

Robertson was a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in Computer Science and held an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he led students' efforts to install solar panels on the Shad Hall athletic facility.

Mr. Robertson was Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Board at Amonix Inc., a company specializing in the design and

...Continued page 6



major economic driver for our area.

There was exciting news with the announcement of the municipality receiving the "Red Grant", from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This grant will provide 50% from OMAFRA of the contribution amount made on application by the municipality, totalling \$60,000. It is to be used towards business retention and expansion, and we will be interviewing the owners of existing businesses throughout the municipality. This is "phase one" of the grant, (the planning stage), which leads to implementation grants in the fall.

March 11th, orientation has been scheduled for staff and council, to begin the process of developing a comprehensive "Strategic Plan", best suited to our needs. This special meeting will provide council with the tools and knowledge necessary to develop a format moving forward. Public input will take place further into the process.

As stated in my election speech, this term of council would present various challenges, with escalating costs for both mandated and essential services, coupled with legislated policy requirements. One of these mandated essential services, which has increased significantly, are our policing costs, which have risen from our forecasted cost of \$665,669, (\$58,333 per month) to an actual cost of \$816,349, (\$68,029 per month). Although there is little we can do about these costs, we are able to make a difference in the "Calls for Service" (or 911 calls). Pocket dials, (when 911 is entered into your phone and hit inadvertently while in your pocket), are a major unnecessary expense. Only dial 911 in case of an emergency, 911 gives the caller access to fire, police and ambulance services.

Unfortunately, our previous garbage contractor, chose not to renew his contract. Ads were placed on our website, in both local newspapers, and also externally in Belleville and Peterborough, but to no avail. Without any other options available, the decision was made to increase both the hours and staff at our 9 waste sites to help accommodate the needs of our ratepayers. Council is always open to any firm wanting to bring forth a proposal for curbside waste collection in the Municipality, but to date, none have come forward. Your cost for

...Continued page 15

manufacture of utility-scale solar power systems, headquartered in Seal Beach, California. He had a remarkable record of entrepreneurial leadership in the solar field having also co-founded and served as Chief Executive Officer of Sunworks Solar LLC, a solar power plant development company, which was acquired by Amonix Inc. While earning his MBA from Harvard Business School, Mr. Robertson also co-founded and served as President and Chief Financial Officer of Sun Edison LLC, North America's largest solar energy services provider, which was acquired by MEMC Electronic Materials.

"Brian had the rare ability to both speak and listen with genuine respect, curiosity and intelligence. I remember this brilliant man offering his time and knowledge with uncommon generosity, warmth and grace." (Jim Weiner)

"We'll never know what contributions he would have made in the future, but in his time at Amonix he was already tipping the scales in favor of alternative fuel and a greener environment. Most of us dream about making an impact on the world before we die. Brian was someone who actually did." (Deborah Hernandez)

"If ever any of us had doubts concerning our work, our purpose, our direction, a few simple words of encouragement from Brian could refocus you so quickly that you felt silly ever feeling anything but an absolute certainty of success. He was such a fantastic visionary and role model that if you were someone lucky enough to share a conversation with him the best choice you could make was to just listen, just absorb. And yet, one of his premiere qualities was his ability to just listen. He was a man more successful in business and family during his short 38 years than most people would be in a hundred lifetimes, and yet he maintained humbleness and an ability to listen, to continue learning. It was simply awe inspiring. He was a man who made everyone who knew him want to be a better leader, a better father and husband, a better person." (An Amonix Employee - anonymous)

Brian, the Chief Executive Officer of Amonix, a Seal Beach, CA solar panel company was killed on December 22, 2011 at 5:30 PM, when his Cessna crashed in York County, PA. He was on his way to spend Christmas with his wife Eileen and his three children and his extended family in Pennsylvania.

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DOCUMENTING THE DEAL ON WATER LEVELS

By Peter Brown

In the fall 2014 edition of the newsletter, the article "Getting a Deal on Water Levels" told the now 50 year old story of how the first generation of BLA members worked tirelessly over seven or eight years pressing Lands and Forests to manage water levels on the lake in a more fair way. Besides meetings and papers and briefs, the BLA led finally by Pat Murphy called on the government to fully review the dam operation. This resulted in more than expected: a brand new dam in 1966.

Target operating levels were agreed but Pat was also promised dam operating plan documents. Meetings were delayed and from BLA records it looks like such documents were never given to the BLA. This lack of documentation was almost the BLA's undoing 20 years on. However, the promises did take hold. Dam operation started happening in satisfactory ways. So much so, that water levels, which were the top order of BLA business in the

1960's, were barely mentioned in the 1970's.

As happened in the 1960's, the issue of how to react to a summer drought appeared once again in 1982. Without enough flow, cottager and town power interests were under discussion again. The fall newsletter reported on the same old controversy but ominously, asked for anyone who knew about the 1966 agreements to



step forward.

The summer of 1987 was the granddaddy of drought events. Low snow levels in 1986/87, small freshet, dry soil, followed by a devastating drought starting in July put extreme pressure on lake levels. And making the problem greater still, GW Martin Lumber put in a cofferdam to hold back water for their mill on the Benoirs. Bancroft District Office (BDO) staff turnover at the manager level and dam operator position left new staff to respond to a

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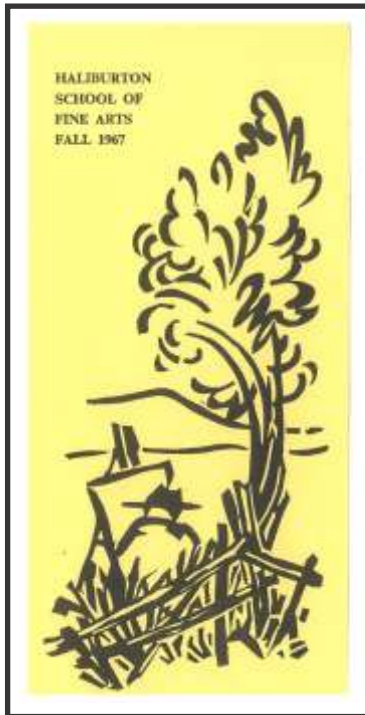
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THE STORY OF THE HALIBURTON SCHOOL OF (FINE) ARTS

As is the case with many great things, the Haliburton School of The Arts is borne of humble beginnings.

Ron McCaw, an avid photographer, came to Haliburton in 1966 to be the Minister of the United Church. He quickly gained an appreciation for the inspiring nature of the Highlands and envisioned an art school that would become the Banff of the East. His vision became a mission and his enthusiasm became infectious. In 1966 a small but fiercely dedicated group of people gathered in a Haliburton living room...



A committee was struck, support was sought, pleas were made and, in tandem, offerings planned for the fall of 1967. What was then called the Haliburton School of Fine Arts was launched with sponsorships, memberships and volunteerism but there was awareness that more was needed if it was to grow and be sustained.

Addressing this need was a broad communication effort that included local taxpayers, the Highlands of Haliburton Arts Group, the Banff School of Fine Arts in Alberta, the Community Programs Division of the Department of Education, retired Premier Leslie Frost, directors of other art schools, the Province of Ontario Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Council of Regents for Colleges of

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Documenting the Deal... Continued from page 7

difficult situation without the years of experience they needed. When the crisis was apprehended in August, one report said the dam was wide open. Communication moved into high gear. MNR was persuaded to stop the total outflow, but by now the water levels were so low, there was fading hope of recovering to normal, before freeze up. A letter writing campaign was launched. MNR convened a meeting of interested parties but with no clear outcome, as the PUC continued to claim priority rights to water. Among BLA President Gordon Flagler's demands was clarity on how a drought would be managed in the future.

It was a surprise for me to read that the Acting Manager at the BDO was unaware of any 1966 agreement. The BLA executive was caught unawares without anyone on the board with direct knowledge of the 1960's agreements. Imagine! Both the BLA and MNR were unsure what the target levels were just 20 years after a hard fought discussion and agreement.

The second surprise was that the Acting Manager defended the lake drawdown on the basis that the water rights of the PUC had precedence in this emergency. He referred to an early 1980's official MNR Land Use Guideline that promised a set flow of 200 cubic feet per second for the PUC as the second consideration after flood management and public safety. How this occurred leads one to conspiracy theories. As we saw in the 1960's, the PUC was entitled only to the "normal flow" of the river not a set flow of any size. This 1960's argument, thought to have been put to rest, was front and centre once more. Everyone got into the argument from BLA President Gordon Flagler to the Herschel Township Reeve and lawyer.

In mid-October, Minister Vince Kerrio
...Continued page 9

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Documenting the Deal... *Continued from page 8*

answered Mac Bartlett's letter with an admission that recovery of lake level may not happen before freeze-up but promised operating guidelines were under review. By this time enough shreds of the 1966 agreement had been found to carry some weight in the discussions.

Leading that review was the new manager Adair Ireland-Smith. Her appointment was no doubt unusual to a district manager post as she came from head office, not the field, and had been working most recently in the Minister's office handling emerging issues. But her experience with hot issues and knowing how to use the MNR hierarchy may just have been what was needed for this water level fiasco.

Jack Vance and David Milne made a fall visit to meet with Ms. Ireland-Smith. David recalls being received very cordially and with respect. Jack recalls that settling the relative priority for water was discussed at length. Gordon Flagler remembers that Ms. Ireland-Smith finally told the PUC to produce documents to validate their priority water claims. They could not. And so it was clarified, as it had been in the 1960's, that the Bancroft PUC would not stand ahead of others when there was a shortage of water.

A second Minister's reply letter, this time to Joe Kryzanowski, dated November 23 indicates November rains, plus tight dam management had brought water levels back. The letter also noted that PUC had been negatively affected. And once again

the promise was made that Operating guidelines were under review.

The BDO moved smartly issuing a December draft policy on handling water levels during a drought, just as requested. The plan had a table of valve openings and outflow measures tied to specific water levels all designed to recover lake level while sharing some flow with those on the river including the PUC. The BLA and others were asked for comment

The BLA replied in January 1988 with a recommendation to hold water back a little more at each level. Nothing was heard for nearly two months. At the end of March correspondence from Ms. Ireland-Smith indicated a lack of consensus on the draft drought management plan, and that the

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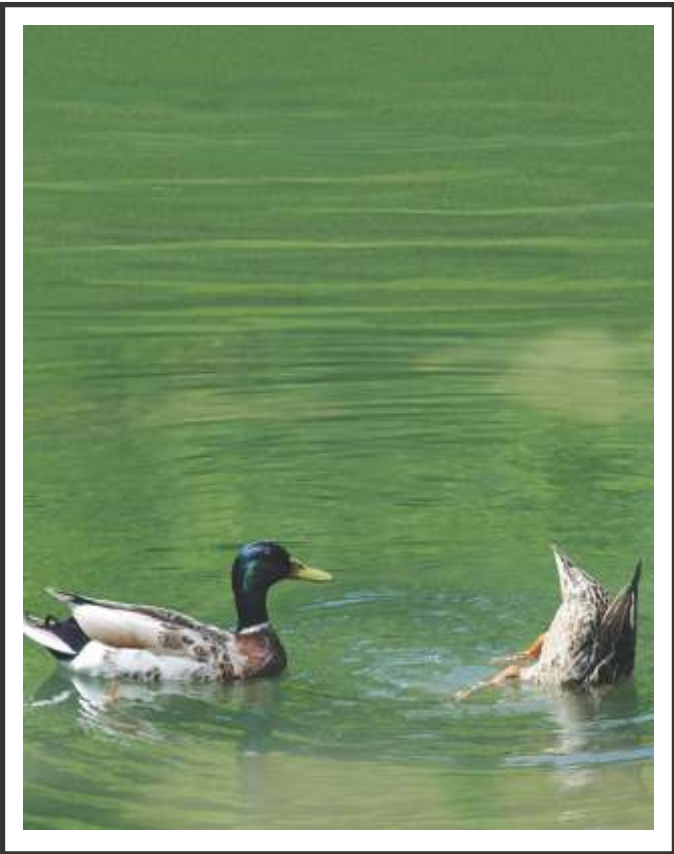
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Documenting the Deal... *Continued from page 9*

BDO had decided to drop the idea of a plan for drought management and focus on a year round operating plan. A new plan was attached and an invitation to discuss the draft was given.

Correspondence makes reference to an April 11 meeting that included Gordon Flagler. In a May 12 letter, Flagler sends a letter with many suggestions. The most strongly worded part involve his insistence on a legal agreement. Ms. Ireland-Smith politely declines in reply. The final report was issued June 22 1988.

Not featured in BLA letters and records is the fact that, coincidentally, MNR had developed new District Fisheries Guidelines between 1982 to 1986. Our current board member Kathy Irwin worked in the Bancroft Office through this period and notes that the guidelines put quite an emphasis on management of water levels at all dams in the district, and that new operating guidelines were being considered regardless of the 1987 drought conditions. The 1988 operating guidelines do include fishery checkpoints. It looks like cottager and fishery interests align very well, and it may be



that our water level management owes much to the fishery guidelines.

Very simply put the new plan showed the upper and lower water levels in which the dam should be operated taking into account flooding, fisheries and all other users. The chart shows months on the horizontal axis and water level as measured at the dam on the vertical axis. A line running through the middle tracks the desirable level at all times and has an acceptable zone on either side. The summer target level is 7.8 ft as measured at the dam. For reference, the wing wall of the dam is 8.05 ft. The chart shows particular water levels desirable for lake trout spawn in the fall and walleye in the spring and

...Continued page 14

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

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Haliburton School... *Continued from page 8*

Applied Arts and Technology.

Encouragement and assistance was forthcoming in varying degrees and formats but the commitment from Sir Sandford Fleming College would stabilize the foundation upon which the school would be built. Late in 1967 it was announced in the year-end report that the Haliburton School of Fine Arts would run as an Extension Division of Sir Sandford Fleming College. That same report included a financial statement disclosing a total income of \$2779.40 and total expenses of \$1954.53, netting \$824.87 in 1967. A weekend workshop cost \$15 and ran from Friday evening to

Sunday. A week long course cost \$35.

Another economic sector that could trace roots to the beauty of the area was lodge accommodation.

Many dotted the shores of lakes and attracted visitors. In the absence of school committed space, these establishments would play a role for many years. Those first offerings in 1967 were held at Royal View Lodge on the shores of Lake Kashagawigamog. The brochure noted that "There will be accommodation of a great variety available in the area at this time ranging from approximately \$5 without meals to \$20 with meals per day." Ensuing years would see courses, faculty dinners, entertainment and art auctions hosted at many local lodges, among them: Deer Lodge, Wigamog Inn,



Chateau Woodland, KenMar Lodge, Bonnie View Inn, and Domain of Killien.

What would become known as Summer School began in 1969 with nine courses held at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School which was noted as being "a modern, attractive building overlooking Head Lake in the village of Haliburton." Children could be introduced to arts and adults could choose from drawing, painting, weaving, ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, creative writing, photography and movie making. Interestingly, those techniques can all still be found within the program. In the year 2000 the name of the school was changed to Haliburton School of The Arts, signifying the inclusion of more than visual arts. Although it remains primarily visual arts based, dance, music and other creative pursuits are valued and well-attended options.

Over the past 48 years dedication, co-operation and committed effort on the part of many have taken the school from 53 students in the fall of 1967 to over 2500 students studying art full and part-

...Continued page 12

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Haliburton School... *Continued from page 11*

time annually. What began as four weekend workshops and a week long course has become more than 300 workshops and courses, nine 15-week certificates, two diploma programs, and two Ontario College Graduate Certificate programs. A reputation for excellence has been firmly established.

In accordance with a long history of growth, one of the diploma programs and one of the graduate certificate programs noted above are being launched in 2014. A unique diploma in Integrated Design will address material culture, sustainability and fine craftsmanship in an accelerated, 3- semester format. A new 15-week Studio Process Advancement certificate will enable emerging artists, visual arts graduates and established practitioners to further develop their work. The evolution of the school continues.

This impressive school is now housed in an award-winning, architecturally unique campus located in lakeside parkland and surrounded by the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Occupied in 2004, the campus was made possible through generous donations of property and money, combined with government funding. After 37 years the school finally had a home. Additional spaces continue to be rented for Summer School but on a year-round basis the Haliburton School of The Arts now houses creativity, challenge, growth and aspiration within walls that are already expanding to accommodate the future.

Locally the school has become an economic force and cultural asset but its effects span borders both national and international. Students attend from all over Ontario, across Canada, and have come from as far away as Australia, Switzerland, Mexico, the United States, and Israel. In addition to the Haliburton program, courses have been offered at a variety of locations in Ontario and as far away as Mexico.

It's the Highlands of Haliburton that are at the heart of the school though. That small but fiercely dedicated group of people was absolutely right in 1966. The inspiring Haliburton Highlands are the perfect setting for an arts school.

The Journey, by Cheryl Wray was referenced in the composition of this document.

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THE OLD TIN SHED: A BUSINESS SUCCESS SAGA

By Peter Brown

The Old Tin Shed is a long time business advertiser in the BLA Newsletter. We are glad for the support and in the process of seeking advertising year by year, I have come to know the power house daughter/mother team behind the business.

Dagny Musclow (the daughter) has been working at creative country crafts going back to the 1990's, and around 2000 decided that it was time for her to open a storefront somewhere in the Bancroft area. While Dagny was looking for a partner to share the risk, Janis Whitehead (Dagny's mother) decided to retire from teaching and with an open road in front of her, offered to join her daughter in seeing if they could make a go of a storefront business.

Even before finding their first store, Dagny had the name Old Tin Shed in her mind. And what they found was indeed an "old tin shed". Most of you reading this, will know the spot, but just in case you don't it sits in Bird's Creek on the west side of Hwy 62 with some lovely large pine trees all around.

As a youngster in the early 1950's this tin shed, was a mystery building to me: sort of like an old

one-room school house but more deserted. One record shows the land being granted to the Orange Lodge in 1908. But local stories speak consistently of the building being a community hall for Bird's Creek: Saturday night dances, parties, weddings, concerts and even a voting station. And then for decades it sat quietly, acting as storage for a local family.

From purchase in the fall of 2002, Dagny, Janis and their families had to really hustle to be ready

for the summer season in 2003. Lots of upgrades were needed in the building and of course there was creation of both an inviting exterior and interior. And then deciding what stock to open with. Just to add to the stress of opening a new business, their zoning status was challenged all the way to the Ontario Municipal Board. That challenge and many others were overcome with a grand opening that happened May 3, 2003.

If you visited in those years you might remember what a treat it was to visit as soon as you stepped out of your car. The parking lot

had gardens around the outside and as you approached the building, many antique artifacts were on display, many for sale. And of course once you stepped inside you were greeted with that special aroma that gift stores have, maybe its candles or maybe soap, and other scented products. And always a friendly welcome from Janis, Dagny or their staff.

The mother/daughter team's vision was confirmed. The business was a success and after

...Continued page 15



Photo by Henry Christiansen



Documenting the Deal... *Continued from page 10*

features the experience and wisdom of managing the lake through the freeze-up, thaw and freshet phases of our seasonal changes. Outside the acceptable zone, both higher and lower, is an extremes zone in which full efforts are to be made to return to acceptable

With the benefit of more than 25 years hindsight, this focus on a year round plan may have been a brilliant decision. What to do in the middle of a drought will always be contentious. But year round water level targets mean that in any situation, even if extreme, the desirable goal is down on paper and the skill of operators can be applied to reach that goal while balancing out competing interests. As designed the plan also means, that action will likely occur more quickly so as to avoid penetrating either upper or lower limits.

MNR staff still use the 1988 plan to operate the dam. The plan has served well for over 25 years and finally completed what Pat Murphy had hoped for in 1967: a documented plan that served BLA interests and for which BLA had been consulted. This time, it's hats off to Flagler, Vance and Milne among others who looked after our interests in 1987/88.

The final word goes to Lloyd Nourse, one of the first BLA Presidents in the early 1950's. In 1991 when asked for some background advice on water level matters, He summarized as follows: "It requires eternal vigilance". We should take note!



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The Old Tin Shed... *Continued from page 13*

eight years, the pressure for growth was getting stronger and stronger. Parking was a limitation but so too was display space for the many products they were finding that would suit their customers.

A big change came in 2011. One time, returning north on Hwy 28 just past Apsley, Janis saw a highway sign for the Ya Ya Gallery which was located in the building on Sherbourne St. that had once been the catholic church in Bancroft. That Gallery was up for sale, and Janis thought to herself, "I really should see if I could get the rights for that sign". When she phoned the Gallery owner, the response was, "Why don't you buy the Gallery?" That question soon was answered with "Why not?"

It was a huge financial commitment and it was already April when they took possession. Over 50 straight days, they worked non-stop to be ready for an opening on June 18. And again not only did they outfit the interior but the exterior had many features like an entry porch and gardens prepared to bring the complete experience enjoyed at Bird's Creek right into Bancroft.

Today, the result is very visible as you pull up on Sherbourne St and enter a wonderful high ceilinged space, full of natural light that makes a wonderful shopping or touring experience.

Dagny and Janis have kept on pressing towards a better and better retail experience. Awards and recognition have come their way more than once.



The most recent and most prestigious was being recognized as National Retailer of the Year by the Canadian Gift Association. The press release announcing the award included this statement "The Old Tin Shed prides itself on giving its customers choices not found in many other places. The off-the-wall décor, like rusty metal word signs and creative iron hooks bring people from all over Ontario to Bancroft in search of unique gift and home ideas"

And in 2015 The Old Tin Shed has launched a brand new website featuring better on-line shopping with new search capabilities and a faster

easier check out routine.

When asked about their customers, Janis says "Our customers keep our doors open. In a small community setting, a retail business depends on more than just its local residents. In North Hastings, we are fortunate to host so many amazing cottage owners; some only during the warm months, and a few the entire year. We, at The Old Tin Shed, value our seasonal friends and landowners. You add spice to our 'cake'. You keep us on our toes. You bring a perspective unparalleled in our wee community. You encourage and support our dreams and plans. You are basically our life blood. And we thank you for that!"

Greetings from Hastings Highlands... *Continued from page 6*

curbside pickup (1.27% of the municipal portion of the taxes), was applied to your 2014 tax bill. This cost ended December 31st, 2014, and will not be on your 2015 bill, if we are unable to resume curbside pickup.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of council, as we are elected to represent you.

SUMMER LIVING IS EASY, CHOOSING JUST ONE ART COURSE IS HARD.

This year's summer program features over 300 courses, including new classes exploring many different media: Land Art, 3D Printing, Guitar, Garden Art in Clay, Writing that Resonates, and Painting Florals.

So whether you are enrolling for the first time, or you come back every year, we have courses for your interests, abilities and talent.

The Haliburton School of The Arts is a wonderful place to learn, grow and create and we hope you can take some time for yourself this summer to explore fresh possibilities.

For more information, and to register:
hsta.ca or 866.353.6464 ext 3

Haliburton
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Trips and Trails **Adventure is Open**

After a brief hiatus, we are happy to see that Trips and Trails Adventure is open again.

Look for Clive Emery's Advertisement in this newsletter for location, hours and business information.

Hastings Highlands Public **Library & Centres**

Congratulations to the Hastings Highlands Public Library for achieving the honour of becoming an Accredited Ontario Public Library. Hastings Highlands Public Library is proud of this achievement, and will work to maintain these high provincial standards of service, administration and infrastructure.

For more information, go to www.hastingshighlandslibrary.ca.

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Brian Robertson... *Continued from page 6*

The family of Brian – Donna, David and Julie (Chang) wanted to establish an ongoing remembrance to Brian in the form of a scholarship. We enlisted the assistance of Sean Sprckett, who contacted various university charitable foundations. McMaster University was selected and the Brian Robertson Memorial Ontario Graduate Scholarship has been established.

In deciding on which charity to support, his family wanted something that represented the things that were important to Brian. We believe this scholarship achieves this goal. Brian was a proponent of higher education, a Canadian success story, an entrepreneur and he believed in solar power as part of the solution to the world's energy needs. He was passionate about alternative energy and to leave the world a better place for his own children and future generations.

Creation of this scholarship embodies so many of the things that were important to Brian and will

mean that his name and vision of the future will carry on forever.

Awarding of the scholarship will begin once the required endowment fund of \$62,500 has been accumulated. To date, family and friends have committed over 70% of the required funding. To make a contribution or for additional information about McMaster University, please contact:

Mr. John Wood
Principal Giving Officer
University Advancement
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West, DTC-125
Hamilton, Ontario Canada L8S 4K1
905.525.9140 Ext. 23803
woodjm@mcmaster.ca

If sending a contribution, please make cheques payable to McMaster University and clearly indicate that the donation is for The Brian Robertson Memorial Ontario Graduate Scholarship. The university will issue a charitable donation receipt.

You can also contact Sean Sprckett (ssprckett@gmail.com) for additional information and questions about the scholarship and the endowment fund.

Note: The comments contained in this article are from various sources, people who contributed to various American Newspapers, Canadian Newspapers and from personal messages written to Brian's family.

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submitted by DIANA GURLEY

Show Schedule 2015 - Please note the Gallery is closed December 25 for the Holidays.

April

**“Inner Worlds Outer Worlds - Sacred
 Geometry Explorations on Diverse Media”
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Wed. Apr. 1 to Sat. Apr. 25

Dan Schmidt

Also: Photography Club in Gift shop

Reception Fri. Apr. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSORS: Grail Springs Wellness Retreat
 and Mirrors Café and Lounge Restaurant

May

Invitational

David McIntosh, Juror

Wed. Apr. 29 to Sat. May 30

Reception Fri. May 1 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Bancroft Motors

June

“Becoming the Light: that Art of the Flower”

Wed. June 3 to Sat. June 27

Mary McLoughlin

Reception Fri. June 5 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Stephanie Henderson
 in memory of Robert C. Henderson

July

**“Riding the Elephant (Lake Road)”
 Landscape Painting**

Wed. July 1 to Sat. Aug. 1

Shelia Davis

Reception Fri. July 3 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Day and Night Woodworking

August

“Retrospective”

Wed. Aug. 5 to Sat. Aug. 29

Gerturd Sorensen

Also: Studio Tour sampler in gallery shop

Reception Fri. Aug. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Couple’s Resort

September

**“Landscapes of the Spirit” with
 Eva Dametto, Leilah Ward and Clasina Weese**

Wed. Sep. 2 to Sat. Sep. 26

Three Women Painters

Reception Fri. Sep. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Barbara Allport

October

“Views from Above” Paintings

Wed. Sep. 30 to Sat. Oct. 31

David McIntosh

Reception Fri. Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Ashlie’s Books

November

“Consensual Discomfort”

Wed. Nov. 4 to Sat. Nov. 28

Nate Smelle Sculptures, Dave Maris Paintings

Reception Fri. Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

SPONSOR: Pat Cooke in memory of
 Paul David Cooke

December

**Patrick Stewart: paintings, Sue Prentice:
 printmaking, and Robin Tinney: sculpture**

Wed. Dec. 2, 2015 to Sat. Jan. 4, 2016

Reception Fri. Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

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Birch Cliff Lodge – Planning a wedding or reunion on the lake? We have been hosting weddings and special events for many years. Please give us a call for more information. **613-332-3316**. www.birchcliffodge.ca

Lakeview Lodge - Fully equipped 1 bedroom cottages with sofa bed, cot, Satellite TV, microwave & BBQ. Four-season Accommodation in the Village on the Lake. David & Lorraine Leedy. **613-332-3596**. www.leedy.ca

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